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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Tuesday August 24, 1976 CI NIDC 76-199C

DIA review(s) completed.

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NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION
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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Tuesday, August 24, 1976.

The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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KOREA: Situation Report

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[] For the third consecutive day, the situation along the Demilitarized Zone in Korea is quiet.

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[] Pyongyang publicly continues to play on the theme that war could break out at anytime. North Korea's overall propaganda treatment, however, does not seem to be as sharply focused on last week's incidents as before.

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[] Moscow's desire to maintain its distance from Pyongyang is evident in the sparse coverage incidents are receiving in Soviet media. *Pravda* has carried two brief press items noting increased tensions brought about by the build-up of US forces after the incident on August 18, but Soviet media have yet to replay any of the North Korean accounts.

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[] The Chinese, who for some time have favored maintaining the status quo on the Korean peninsula, also are playing down the situation. Thus far the Chinese media have replayed Pyongyang's official account of the incident, but Peking has not commented directly. []

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Peking plainly does not wish to contribute to any heightened tension in Korea and will almost certainly continue to maintain its low profile on the situation. []

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LEBANON: Situation Report

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[] Syria has agreed to attend an Arab League summit conference to discuss Lebanon; the site and agenda of the meeting may become points of contention.

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[] The Syrians and Lebanese Christians have already let it be known that they want the summit to be held somewhere other

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than Cairo, preferably in Saudi Arabia. The Syrians are also likely to press, at least initially, for a discussion of the second Sinai accord, which Damascus contends caused the Lebanese civil war.

25X1 [] For the moment, the conflict appears to have settled into artillery exchanges, limited ground action, and mutual recriminations and threats.

25X1 [] The long-threatened Christian offensive against Palestinian-leftist strongpoints in the mountains just east of Beirut has still not materialized. The Christians are now hinting that Syria may undertake a major offensive in early September, before president-elect Sarkis is to assume office, if negotiations remain stalled. This appears to be another attempt to encourage the Palestinians to withdraw from the mountains without a fight. Asad, however, recently received the approval of his senior military advisers for a renewed offensive should it be necessary.

25X1 [] Leftist leader Kamal Jumblatt yesterday reiterated his flat refusal to accept the latest Christian demands for a cease-fire. Jumblatt accused the Syrians and Christians of conspiring in a US-Israeli plot against Lebanon and the Palestinians and called on the Arab League to implement its resolutions despite obstacles thrown in its path by Syria.

25X1 [] Jumblatt's recent call for the creation of a "popular" liberation army to back up his militant position has met with little success. Some of Jumblatt's fellow Druze tribesmen and 80 Muslim officers from the regular Lebanese army have reportedly volunteered to serve in the militia, but Jumblatt has not been able to elicit much enthusiasm among other regional or Muslim ethnic groups.

25X1 [] Jumblatt's aim is to create a united leftist-Muslim armed force to confront the Syrians and Christians and thus eliminate the confusion created by the plethora of small, local militias that are currently carrying the brunt of the fighting. Libya and Iraq reportedly have promised to fund the militia and Fatah has agreed to provide arms and training.

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SOUTH AFRICA: Work Boycott

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[] An estimated 70 to 80 percent of the 200,000 industrial workers in the South African township of Soweto participated in a work stoppage yesterday. Black student militants who last weekend called for a three-day boycott apparently intimidated many workers by threatening to burn their homes.

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[] The police used gunfire and tear gas to disperse student bands attempting to turn workers back at several commuter points. At least one student was killed, and six were wounded.

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[] An unsuccessful attempt earlier this month by student activists in Soweto to impose a work boycott was followed by several days of bloody rioting. Black students in Soweto and elsewhere in South Africa have become more militant as a result of the many clashes with police since rioting first erupted last June in Soweto. A fluid "street leadership" has emerged that opposes the gradualism advocated by leaders of the adult "black consciousness" movement, most of whom have been arrested since June.

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[] Over the weekend, moderate heads of seven of the country's tribal homelands called on the government to release the detainees. They also proposed a series of reforms and requested a meeting with Prime Minister Vorster to discuss them.

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[] The South African cabinet is scheduled to meet today and may discuss measures for coping with the country's racial tension. Tough speeches by government spokesmen in recent days, however, suggest that Vorster will remain firm toward student dissidents and consider only limited concessions for urban blacks.

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[] Last Friday, the government announced that it will permit blacks to own homes in the black townships and that 50,000 homes in Soweto are to go on sale this week. This is a potentially significant departure from the ruling party's long-held doctrine that blacks belong in the tribal homelands and can only reside temporarily in urban areas. Now, however, only a very small portion of the urban blacks can afford to buy homes, even if more are available.

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GREECE-TURKEY: Aegean

25X1 [] Turkish Prime Minister Demirel's statement last week challenging the Greek right to fortify islands near the Turkish coast has drawn fire from his political opponents at home as well as from Athens.

25X1 [] Principal opposition leader Ecevit on Friday charged that Demirel's refusal even to characterize the islands as Greek played into the hands of the Greeks, who maintain that the Turks wish to expand their presence in the Aegean.

25X1 [] Demirel has refused to back down, and his position seems to have hardened. In an interview yesterday he noted that Greece had received the islands under the terms of treaties that call for their demilitarization. Demirel was categorical in his assertion that the islands cannot remain armed.

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25X1 [] Turkey, meanwhile, completed the third phase of its seismic research in the Aegean yesterday, and the research ship Sismik I returned to port, allegedly to take on more sophisticated equipment but probably to undergo extensive repairs.

25X1 [] //Demirel last week indicated the ship may stay in port for six or seven days before departing for the fourth phase of its voyage. One Turkish newspaper last week speculated that the next area of operations may be in and around Mandalya Bay.//

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